



February 4, 2011

Vision Quest. No, we're not talking about the 1980's high school wrestling movie! We are talking about a dialogue I'd like to start with all of you. On Wednesday morning, the **Franklin Leadership University** (FLU) class asked me an excellent question: "What's our vision?" I responded with a vision statement that I think talks about who we are as a City government/service organization. The FLU group and I had a very good conversation that morning. I had a similar discussion with our **Leadership Team** on Thursday morning. Everyone in both of these conversations seemed very engaged and interested in cultivating a clear vision statement for our organization. So, I thought I'd bring the rest of the **City Team** in on this conversation. Let's start with the original statement and get your feedback, questions, and ideas. Here is a start point (somewhat "tweaked" from our conversations over the past couple days):

Vision: *Franklin will continually strive to be a community of choice for individuals, families, and businesses to grow and prosper through an excellent quality of life supported through exceptional, responsive, and cost-effective City services.*

Key Operating Principles: This vision is exemplified each day through the actions of our City team, which embraces the following operating principles:

- i. Excellence
- ii. Innovation
- iii. Team-work
- iv. Integrity
- v. Action-oriented

Give this some thought. Start a conversation with your co-workers. Stop by and let me know what you think. You can also send me your thoughts electronically. We are setting up an e-mail address to collect your input: vision@franklintn.gov (the mail box should be up and running sometime today).

Recently, five certified electrical inspectors in the **Building and Neighborhood Services Department** completed training here in Franklin to conduct **EV Charging Dock Station inspections**. We thank **Norm Odeneal, Ran Edwards, Rodney Prince, Brian Fritcher, and Rob Horton** for completing this training. These docking stations will allow drivers of electrical vehicles to pull into a designated parking area to charge their vehicle. Norm, our Senior Electrical Plans Examiner, arranged for the training through the State of Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The 2 ½ hour training session was conducted by staff members of the Tennessee Valley Authority and was attended by state officials as well as members of our staff. **The City of Franklin and the City of Knoxville are the only two government entities with this certification.** This is another step in the important role Franklin may have

in the future toward green initiatives. Presently, the Nissan Headquarters is the only location with the EV docking stations. Thanks to our BNS team for their leadership in getting this training.

Newschannel 5's Morning Anchor Steve Hayslip lent his talents to a **Blue Bag Recycling education campaign**. **Communications Manager Milissa Reiersen** wrote the video for her **Leadership Franklin Project**. **Shanna Jackson with Columbia State** is also in the Leadership Franklin Group and asked **Columbia State's film/video class** to produce the project. The video features Hayslip, Reiersen, Jackson, **Courtney Rogers and Dr. Ray White**, all from the Leadership Franklin Group. The purpose of the video is to educate residents about the many items you can put into the blue bag and raise the amount of items being recycled and divert it from the landfill.

Last week, several **Finance Department** staff members attended an accounting basics course in preparation for the Certified Municipal Finance Officer program which begins this month. The CMFO training is offered through MTAS, includes 11 courses and will take approximately two years to complete. The Tennessee General Assembly passed an Act in 2007 that requires each municipality to have at least one CMFO in its employee base; however, the City has higher goals! Not just one, but **four** employees are attending! **Enrolled in the program are Dawn Wildrick, DeAnn Kraft, Katie Marra and Matt Reinders**. Thanks for this group from Finance for taking on this challenge.

Enjoy the weekend and the Super Bowl (I'm going Packers!). Thanks for all you do!

Excellence, Innovation, Teamwork, Integrity, Action-Oriented